

Afternoon Alert - Friday, June 1, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NTV gave top play to a report on a meeting in New York between Secretary Pompeo and North Korea's Vice Chairman Kim Yong Chol. The Secretary reportedly said after the meeting that "real progress" was made in discussions over how to move forward with denuclearization and guaranteeing the regime. TBS led with a report that President Trump indicated that even if a U.S.-DPRK summit is held, the two sides may not reach an agreement right away and discussions may need to continue. Fuji TV gave top play to a report that a Nihon University defender and a Kwansei Gakuin quarterback have reached an out-of-court settlement over an illegal tackle. TV Asahi led with a traffic accident in Ueno, Tokyo, this morning.

INTERNATIONAL

Finance chiefs of U.S., Japan agree to maintain pressure on North Korea

NHK reported online that Finance Minister Aso and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin held a meeting on Thursday ahead of the G7 Ministers and Central Banks' Governors Meeting in Canada. The network said that amid ongoing preparations for the first-ever U.S.-DPRK summit, Aso and Mnuchin agreed on close bilateral cooperation to maintain maximum pressure on North Korea to completely and permanently abolish its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. In addition, Aso reportedly requested that the U.S. exempt Japan from the high tariffs imposed on steel imports and take a cool-headed approach with regard to its apparent readiness to impose high tariffs on auto imports. In addition, Aso reportedly expressed strong concern that the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and resumption of economic sanctions against Iran will have an impact on Japanese companies and banks that have dealings with Iran.

- [Commentary: Why Trump should reschedule his summit with Kim Jong Un](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Ex-envoy to U.S., journalist on U.S.-DPRK summit, DPRK denuclearization, abductions](#) (WILL)
- [Japan, Vietnam vow to ensure maritime security, deepen partnership](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan names new ambassador to Poland](#) (Kyodo News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on May 31, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Ruling, opposition parties reach basic agreement on national referendum revision bill](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opposition to step up attacks on Aso while gov't, ruling parties hope to close Moritomo issue](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Rising LDP star Shinjiro Koizumi, like charismatic dad, finds growing fan base](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Utilize party leaders' question time in Diet to debate values of policies](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: One-on-one party leaders' debates show PM Abe evading questions](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Party leaders' debate](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: Abe's successor?](#) (Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [Japan's Aso lobbies Mnuchin for exemption from U.S. steel tariffs](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Scaling back of French reactor a blow for nuke fuel reprocessing](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Toshiba to withdraw from Texas nuclear plant project](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan and EU reach data transfer agreement](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SECURITY

- [Column: U.S. pressure behind LDP proposal to increase defense budget](#) (Nikkei)
- [Mayor urges U.S. Navy to halt night drills during summer](#) (Kyodo News)

SCIENCE

- [Japan launches entrepreneurial matching platform to boost space startups](#) (The Japan Times)

SOCIETY

Japan's national soccer team gears up for World Cup

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the announcement of the members of the Japanese men's national soccer team for the World Cup on June 15, which is now led by head coach Akira Nishino. The program reported on an unofficial match against Ghana on Wednesday, which Japan lost 2-1. The program said attention will be focused on whether Nishino will be able to pull the team together to win at the World Cup .

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [At U.S. request, MOD makes ex post facto report to local authorities on Osprey arrival](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [Three newspapers to publish ads advocating against Henoko relocation](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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